

Nassau County Legislative District 16

Summer 2022



A Message from Legislator Drucker

Dear Neighbor:

As summer draws to a close and the back-to-school bells chime in the distance, we are often consumed by bittersweet memories of the joy we experienced during the past couple of months as we prepare for the change in seasons and our daily lives taking on different routines.

As your Legislator, I look back on those recent months with a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment based upon what we achieved here in the 16th Legislative District. The summer began with the launch of Nassau County's Antisemitism Task Force, which arose out of the legislation I filed last year. Working together with the very talented people who serve on this task force, I am optimistic that we will make a real difference in our efforts to identify the sources and breeding grounds for this rising expression of hatred and intolerance so that we can eradicate it from our society. While we have a lot of work ahead of us, I have confidence that we will accomplish our goal.

And while the worst of COVID-19 feels like it is in our collective rearview mirror, the pandemic is not over and we must remain aware and vigilant to protect ourselves, our families and loved ones, and everyone we come into contact with. My office has been hard at work distributing test kits and KN95 masks throughout the summer to any constituents or community institutions who were in need or requested them.

In early August, we organized and sponsored our annual National Night Out at Broadway Commons in Hicksville, which once again was a huge success with several hundred people attending. We were very fortunate to have so many local businesses and organizations serve as sponsors, and their participation greatly enriched the celebration and recognition of the law enforcement partners who serve and protect us. We teamed up with Broadway Commons once again on August 31st to host a back-to-school celebration, during which we gave away school supplies and offered fun activities for the kids to enhance their excitement at the start of the new school year.

It is always my honor and privilege to represent the residents of 16th Legislative District, and my door is always open to anyone who needs anything or just wants to talk or bring an issue to my attention.

Please be safe and careful and enjoy the autumn months!

Sincerely,

Arnold W. Drucker
Nassau County Legislator
16th Legislative District



Nassau County Legislator
Arnold W. Drucker

The 16th Legislative District is comprised of Plainview, Old Bethpage, Syosset, Woodbury, Jericho, Old Westbury, Hicksville and Roslyn Heights.

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Deploying New Resources to Prevent Opioid Overdoses

This June, Legislator Drucker unveiled legislation that would require the inclusion of fentanyl-detecting test strips in Narcan kits distributed by Nassau County agencies. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid which experts at the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) have determined is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine. The consumption of fentanyl-laced drugs - often unbeknownst to the user - has resulted in a tragic increase in the number of overdose deaths amidst the ongoing opioid drug crisis in Nassau County and across America.

Including fentanyl testing strips with Narcan kits would serve as a low-cost way of potentially identifying contaminated drugs and preventing accidental overdoses. Individuals dissolve substances they wish to test in water and dip a strip into the solution. The strips require only minimal amounts of drug residue to work properly, and results are generally available within five minutes.

“As the battleground in the opioid drug crisis shifts, we must adapt our strategies to save more lives and give more residents the best possible chance at achieving long-term recovery,” Legislator Drucker said. “By including fentanyl detection testing strips in the Narcan kits that County agencies distribute, we have an opportunity to quickly ramp up our ability to uncloak this silent, stealthy killer - one that would otherwise lurk in the shadows.”



Delivering Relief for Seniors, Homeowners Living with Disabilities

Legislator Drucker and his Minority Caucus colleagues have introduced legislation that will deliver much-needed tax relief to income-eligible senior and disabled homeowners in Nassau County.

Their measures would increase the maximum income for receiving the Senior Citizens and Persons with Limited Incomes and Disabilities property tax to \$58,400 as compared to the current cap of \$34,400. Governor Hochul signed state legislation in early August to raise the maximum income eligibility cap and give municipalities like Nassau County the ability to opt in.

Legislator Drucker and his colleagues are hopeful that the measures will be added to the Legislative calendar so that they can be approved and enacted this fall.



Nassau County Tells Amazon - Give Our Taxpayers Their Money Back!

In August, the Nassau County Industrial Development Agency voted to rescind a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) that was previously awarded to Amazon for its last-mile warehouse project at Syosset Park lots 251 and 252 located at 305 Robbins Lane in Syosset, and to begin clawing back any taxpayer-funded incentives that have already been provided.

From the moment Amazon set its sights on Syosset, Legislator Drucker vociferously opposed giving them a single penny of Nassau taxpayer money because, quite frankly, they did not need it nor deserve it. His resolve turned into outrage when it was reported this past June that Amazon was planning an end-run around its commitment to create 150 new jobs in Syosset by closing its Bethpage facility and moving those workers to Syosset - which led to the claw-back of tax breaks.



“The Nassau IDA vindicated all of our concerns when they pulled the plug on this wasteful, ill-advised giveaway to one of the world’s wealthiest corporations,” Legislator Drucker said. “I thank the board for hearing our voices and for holding Amazon accountable for their broken promises.”

Legislator Drucker has secured commitments to pave more than 11 lane miles of County roads during 2022. This includes portions of:

- Roslyn Road from I.U. Willets Road to the L.I.E. South Service Road in Roslyn Heights
- Long Island Expressway North Service Road from Wheatley Road to Red Ground Road in Old Westbury
- Red Ground Road from the L.I.E. North Service Road to Glen Cove Road in Old Westbury
- Sweet Hollow Road from Round Swamp Road to Winding Road in Old
- Claremont Road from Sweet Hollow Road to its end

In addition to extensive road repaving, Legislator Drucker continues to advocate for and secure investments in crucial infrastructure projects throughout the district. Central among these efforts is a \$3 million investment in traffic safety improvements for Roslyn Road in Roslyn Heights - a project for which the County has already bonded \$2 million as part of its capital plan.

Legislator Drucker previously secured improvements to sidewalks along Round Swamp Road in Plainview; advocated for millions in capital plan dollars for the improvement and replacement of curbs and sidewalks across the county; and shepherded the installation of a HAWK signal adjacent to the nature walking/jogging/bike path on Old Bethpage Road to help pedestrians safely cross the road. A rapid flashing beacon (RFB) was installed on Woodbury Road; and the design phase is underway for additional speed awareness devices along Plainview Road.



As the County's 2022-23 capital plan is formulated, Legislator Drucker will continue to fight for substantial new investments in traffic safety, including projects focused on addressing constituent concerns about dangerous conditions at the intersection of Old Country Road and Round Swamp Road and at the intersection of the trail at Haypath Road in Old Bethpage.

Upcoming: Department of Assessment Property Tax Exemption Workshops

The Nassau County Department of Assessment will be hosting a series of in-person Property Tax Exemption Workshops for 16th Legislative District residents. During the workshops, Department of Assessment staff will assist residents with filing for veteran, senior citizen, Cold War veteran, volunteer firefighter and ambulance worker, limited-income disability and/or home improvement exemptions. Enhanced STAR applications will also be processed for homeowners already enrolled in the STAR program prior to Jan. 2, 2015.

The workshops will be held from 1 - 2:30 p.m. at these locations:

- Monday, **October 3** at the **Syosset Public Library** located at 225 South Oyster Bay Road
- Thursday, **October 6** at the **Hicksville Public Library** located at 169 Jerusalem Avenue
- Thursday, **October 20** at the **Plainview Jewish Center** located at 95 Floral Drive
- Tuesday, **October 25** at **The Bryant Library** located at 2 Paper Mill Road, Roslyn

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Honoring Harry Chapin's Legacy

To commemorate the legacy of legendary Long Island singer-songwriter and philanthropist Harry Chapin, Legislator Drucker joined forces with Long Island Cares, the Plainview-Old Bethpage Library and the Syosset Public Library to host a community-wide food drive that began on Harry Chapin Day. For one month starting on July 16, residents donated unopened, non-perishable food items at participating community drop-off locations. Contributions to Baxter's Pet Pantry were also accepted in support of their mission to ensure that every member of the family has access to the nutritious food that they need. The drive was a tremendous success, garnering thanks to the generosity of LD 16 residents.

Visit <http://www.licares.org> to find out more about how you can support Long Island Cares today!



Community Partners Celebrate National Night Out at Hicksville's Broadway Commons

Legislator Drucker joined forces with the Nassau County Police Department and an array of community stakeholders to celebrate National Night Out on Tuesday, August 2 – an event that drew hundreds to the Broadway Commons Mall in Hicksville.

"For decades, National Night Out events have been instrumental in efforts to foster stronger bonds between law enforcement agencies and the communities they work so diligently to serve and protect," Legislator Drucker said. "I am deeply grateful to our partners at Broadway Commons, the Nassau County Police Department, Nassau's Second Precinct and all of our generous sponsors for working so closely with us to continue this wonderful tradition."

